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IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1-3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein receiving the query
2 includes receiving a HTTP message.

1 5. (Canceled)

1 6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes:
3 based on the query, determining at least one of: at least one query context, at least
4 one query keyword, and at least one query synonym, and,
5 generating first and second customized queries based on at least one of: the
6 determined at least one query context, the determined at least one query keyword, and the
7 determined at least one query synonym.

1 7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes:
3 surveying the first and second data sources to determine at least one of: at least one
4 relationship between at least two rows in at least one of the first and second data sources and
5 or at least one relationship between at least two columns in at least one of the first and
6 second data sources, and
7 based on the query and the determined at least one relationship, generating first and
8 second customized queries.

1 9-13. (Canceled)

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1 14. (Currently Amended): A method for searching first and second data sources having
2 first and second data formats, the method comprising:
3 receiving a natural-language query that elicits information from data sources,
4 based on the query and the respective first and second data formats, generating first
5 and second customized queries, and
6 applying the first and second customized queries to the respective first and second
7 data sources,
8 receiving from the first and second data sources customized query results that
9 indicate whether those data sources contain the elicited information, and
10 providing a common result package indicative of the information that the customized
11 query results contain.

1 15. (Canceled)

1 16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 79, wherein the text data source
2 stores at least one of: at least one text document, at least one text file, and at least one file
3 including program instructions.

1 17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein receiving the query
2 includes receiving at least one of at least one natural language query and at least one
3 keyword.

1 18. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein receiving the query includes
2 receiving the query via a network.

3
4 19. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein receiving the query includes
5 receiving at least one relational operator.

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- 1 20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes:
3 surveying the first and second data sources to identify information including at least
4 one of: information associated with at least one column in at least one of the
5 first and second data sources, information associated with at least one row in
6 at least one of the first and second data sources, and information associated
7 with at least one data element in at least one of the first and second data
8 sources, and
9 based on the query and the respective identified information, generating first and
10 second customized queries.
- 1 21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the query is a natural
2 language query and generating first and second customized queries includes translating the
3 query from a first language to at least one distinct second language.
- 1 22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the query is a natural
2 language query and generating first and second customized queries includes processing the
3 query using a natural language processor.
- 1 23. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes performing a spell check.
- 1 24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes performing a context evaluation of the query.
- 1 25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes determining the first and second data formats of the
3 respective first and second data sources.

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1 26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes identifying at least one abbreviation in the query.

1 27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes identifying at least one of: at least one abbreviation in
3 the first data source and at least one abbreviation the second data source.

1 28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes identifying at least one of: at least one column header,
3 at least one row header, and at least one textual term in at least one of: the first data source
4 and the second data source.

1 29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes identifying at least one word variation in at least one of
3 the first and second data sources.

1 30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes identifying at least one phrase variation in at least one
3 of the first and second data sources.

1 31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes identifying at least one code based on at least one of:
3 the first data source and the second data source.

1 32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes generating at least one phonetic equivalent.

1 33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized queries includes identifying a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ).

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1 34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, further including generating a
2 log file that includes at least one of the query, the first customized query, the second
3 customized query, first search results based on the first customized query, second search
4 results based on the second customized query, and a time of query.

1 35. (Original) A method according to claim 14, further comprising associating at least one
2 of at least one identity and at least one privilege with the query.

1 36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, further comprising performing
2 at least one filtering of search results based on at least one of: the first and second
3 customized queries.

1 37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 80, wherein communicating the
2 first and second search results to a client includes generating a SGML document.

1 38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein communicating the
2 first and second search results to a client includes generating at least one of a graph, a pie
3 chart, a spreadsheet, and a histogram based on the first and second search results.

1 39. (Canceled)

1 40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein communicating the
2 first and second search results to a client includes generating at least one of: an email, an
3 instant-message, and a voice message.

1 41. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein applying the first and
2 second customized queries to the respective first and second data sources includes
3 transferring the query to at least one of: a search engine in communication with the
4 respective first and second data sources and a dictionary in communication with the

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5 respective first and second data sources, the dictionary being configured to generate the
6 respective first and second customized queries.

1 42. (Canceled)

1 43. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein applying the first and
2 second customized queries includes applying at least one of a SQL query and a search-
3 engine search expression.

1 44. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein applying the first and
2 second customized queries to the respective first and second data sources includes
3 conditioning the application of the first and second customized queries based on at least one
4 of an identity and a profile associated with the query.

1 45. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein applying the first and
2 second customized queries includes conditioning the application of the first and second
3 customized queries based on at least one privilege rule associated with at least one of the
4 respective first and second data sources.

1 46-48. (Canceled)

1 49. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 55, wherein the query includes at
2 least one of: at least one natural language query and at least one keyword.

1 50-54. (Canceled)

1 55. (Currently amended) A device for searching first and second data sources having
2 respective first and second data formats, the device comprising:
3 at least one microprocessor-controlled device configured to:
4 receive a natural-language query that elicits information from data sources.

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5 based on the query and the respective first and second data formats, generate
6 first and second customized queries, and
7 apply the first and second customized queries to the respective first and
8 second data sources,
9 receive from the first and second data sources customized query results that
10 indicate whether those data sources contain the elicited information, and
11 provide a common result package indicative of the information that the
12 customized query results contain.

1 56. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 55, wherein the first and second
2 data sources includes at least one of: a text data source, a SGML data source, an HTML
3 data source, an XML data source, and a SQL data source.

1 57. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 55, wherein the at least one
2 microprocessor-controlled device is configured to:
3 survey the first and second data sources to identify information including at least
4 one of: information associated with at least one column in at least one of the first and second
5 data sources, information associated with at least one row in at least one of the first and
6 second data sources, and information associated with at least one data element in at least one
7 of the first and second data sources, and
8 based on the query and the respective identified information, generate first and
9 second customized queries.

1 58-64. (Canceled)

1 65. (Currently amended) A computer product for searching first and second data sources
2 having first and second data formats, the computer product disposed on a computer readable
3 medium and comprising instructions for causing a processor to:
4 receive a natural-language query that elicits information from data sources.

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5 based on the query and the respective first and second data formats, generate first
6 and second customized queries, and
7 apply the first and second customized queries to the respective first and second data
8 sources,
9 receive from the first and second data sources customized query results that indicate
10 whether those data sources contain the elicited information, and
11 provide a common results package indicative of the information that the customized
12 query results contain.

1 66. (Previously presented) A computer product according to claim 65, wherein the query
2 includes at least one of: at least one natural language query and at least one keyword.

1 67. (Previously presented) A computer product according to claim 65, wherein the
2 instructions to receive the query include instructions to receive the query via a network.

1 68. (Previously presented) A computer product according to claim 65, wherein the
2 instructions to receive the query include instructions to receive a HTTP message.

1 69-70. (Canceled)

1 71. (Previously presented) A computer product according to claim 65, wherein the
2 instructions to generate first and second customized queries include instructions to:
3 survey the first and second data sources to identify information including at least
4 one of: information associated with at least one column in at least one of the first and second
5 data sources, information associated with at least one row in at least one of the first and
6 second data sources, and information associated with at least one data element in at least one
7 of the first and second data sources, and
8 based on the query and the respective identified information, generate first and
9 second customized queries.

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1 72-77. (Canceled)

1 78. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein generating first and
2 second customized
3 queries includes generating first and second customized queries based on whether the
4 respective
5 first and second data sources store data relevant to the query.

1 79. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the first and second
2 data sources include one or more of: a text data source, a SGML data source, an HTML
3 data source, an XML data source, and a SQL data source.

1 80. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, further comprising:
2 receiving first and second search results from the respective first and second data
3 sources, and
4 communicating the first and second search results to a client.

1 81. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 80, wherein communicating the
2 first and second search results to a client includes:
3 converting the first and second search results to a single data format, and
4 communicating the converted first and second search results to the client.

1 82. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 55, wherein the at least one
2 microprocessor-controlled device is configured to:
3 generate first and second customized queries based on whether the respective first
4 and second data sources store data relevant to the query.

1 83. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 55, wherein the at least one
2 microprocessor-controlled device is configured to:

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3 transfer the query to at least one of: a search engine in communication with the
4 respective first and second data sources and a dictionary in communication with the
5 respective first and second data sources, the dictionary being configured to generate the
6 respective first and second customized queries.

1 84. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 55, wherein the at least one
2 microprocessor-controlled device is configured to:

3 apply at least one of: a SQL query and a search-engine search expression.

1 85. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 55, wherein the at least one
2 microprocessor-controlled device is configured to:

3 receive first and second search results from the respective first and second data
4 sources, and

5 communicate the first and second search results to a client.

1 86. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 55, wherein the at least one
2 microprocessor-controlled device is configured to:

3 convert the first and second search results to a single data format, and

4 communicate the converted first and second search results to the client.

1 87. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 86, wherein the single data format
2 includes an SGML format.

1 88. (Previously presented) A computer product according to claim 65, wherein the instruc-
2 tions to generate first and second customized queries include instructions to:

3 generate first and second customized queries based on whether the respective first
4 and second data sources store data relevant to the query.

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1 89. (Previously presented) A computer product according to claim 65, wherein the first and
2 second data sources include one or more of: a text data source, a SGML data source, an
3 HTML data source, an XML data source, and a SQL data source.

1 90. (Previously presented) A computer product according to claim 65, wherein the
2 instructions to apply the first and second customized queries to the respective first and
3 second data sources include instructions to:
4 transfer the query to at least one of: a search engine in communication with the
5 respective first and second data sources and a dictionary in communication with the
6 respective first and second data sources, the dictionary being configured to generate the
7 respective first and second customized queries.

1 91. (Previously presented) A computer product according to claim 65, wherein the
2 instructions to apply the first and second customized queries to the respective first and
3 second data sources include instructions to:
4 apply at least one of: a SQL query and a search-engine search expression.

1 92. (Previously presented) A computer product according to claim 65, further comprising
2 instructions to:
3 receive first and second search results from the respective first and second data
4 sources, and
5 communicate the first and second search results to a client.

1 93. (Previously presented) A computer product according to claim 65, further comprising
2 instructions to:
3 convert the first and second search results to a single data format, and
4 communicate the converted first and second search results to the client.